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Organizational and procedural matters

Annotations to the agenda for the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council

Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Organizational and procedural matters

Date and venue of the session

1. In accordance with its annual programme of work, as considered on 7 December 2015 at the organizational session for the tenth cycle of the Human Rights Council, the Council will hold its thirty-first session from 29 February to 24 March 2016 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

2. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Council, as contained in section VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the organizational meeting for the thirty-first session will be held on 12 January 2016.

Agenda of the session

3. The agenda of the Human Rights Council is contained in section V of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. The Council will consider the present annotations relating to items included in the agenda for the thirty-first session.

Composition of the Human Rights Council

4. The composition of the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session is as follows:* Albania (2017); Algeria (2016); Bangladesh (2017); Belgium (2018); Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2017); Botswana (2017); Burundi (2018); China (2016); Congo (2017); Côte d'Ivoire (2018); Cuba (2016); Ecuador (2018); El Salvador (2017); Ethiopia (2018); France (2016); Georgia (2018); Germany (2018); Ghana (2017); India (2017); Indonesia (2017); Kenya (2018); Kyrgyzstan (2018); Latvia (2017); Maldives (2016); Mexico (2016); Mongolia (2018); Morocco (2016); Namibia (2016); Netherlands (2017); Nigeria (2017); Panama (2018); Paraguay (2017); Philippines (2018); Portugal (2017); Qatar (2017); Republic of Korea (2018); Russian Federation (2016); Saudi Arabia (2016); Slovenia (2018); South Africa (2016); Switzerland (2018); the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2016); Togo (2018); United Arab Emirates (2018); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2016); Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2018); Viet Nam (2016).

Bureau of the Human Rights Council

5. At its organizational session, held on 7 December 2015, the Human Rights Council elected the following members of the Bureau for its tenth cycle, which will run from 1 January until 31 December 2016: President of the Council, Choi Kyong-lim (Republic of Korea); Vice-Presidents, Jānis Kārkliņš (Latvia), Ramón Alberto Morales Quijano (Panama), Negash Kebret Botora (Ethiopia), Vice-President and Rapporteur, Bertrand de Crombrugghe (Belgium).

* The term of membership of each State expires in the year indicated in parenthesis.

Review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council

6. Pursuant to paragraph 42 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council will hold a high-level panel discussion to interact with heads of United Nations agencies within their respective mandates on specific human rights themes, with the objective of promoting the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system (see annex).

7. Pursuant to a decision taken by the Council at its organizational session, the Council will hold a high-level interactive dialogue on the theme: "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the right to development".

Selection and appointment of special procedure mandate holders

8. Following the resignation of a member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises from Asia-Pacific States, and of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, the consultative group, composed of Amr Ramadan (Egypt), Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand), Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop (Brazil), Elisabeth Laurin (France) and Filloreta Kodra (Albania), will propose to the President of the Council a list of candidates to replace them, in accordance with paragraph 47 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and the requirements set out in Council decision 6/102.

9. In accordance with the procedure stipulated in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the appointment of special procedure mandate holders will be completed upon the subsequent approval by the Council. The mandate holders in question will be appointed before the end of the thirty-first session.

Selection and appointment of members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

10. In its resolution 6/36, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a subsidiary expert mechanism to provide it with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples in the manner and form requested by the Council. The Council decided that the expert mechanism would consist of five independent experts, selected in accordance with the procedure established in paragraphs 39 to 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, and strongly recommended that, in the selection and appointment process, the Council should give due regard to experts of indigenous origin.

11. In accordance with paragraph 47 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and the requirements set out in Council decision 6/102, the consultative group will propose to the President of the Council a list of candidates to replace two of the five independent experts of the Expert Mechanism, respectively from the Eastern European States and from the Latin American and Caribbean States, whose tenures are due to expire in March 2016.

12. In accordance with the procedure stipulated in resolution 6/36 and in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the appointment of the above-mentioned experts will be completed upon the subsequent approval of the Council before the end of the session.

Report of the session

13. At the end of its session, the Council will consider for adoption a draft report prepared by the Rapporteur. The report will contain a technical summary of the proceedings of the thirty-first session.

2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

14. All reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) and the Secretary-General are submitted under agenda item 2, which remains an open-ended item throughout the session. These reports will be considered at the time of consideration of relevant agenda items, as appropriate. The specific timing of their introduction will be reflected in the programme of work.

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

15. The Human Rights Council will consider the annual report of the High Commissioner, the report on the activities of OHCHR in Guatemala and the report on the situation of human rights in Colombia (A/HRC/31/3 and Add.1-2).

Question of human rights in Cyprus

16. Pursuant to its decision 2/102, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of OHCHR on the question of human rights in Cyprus (A/HRC/31/21).

Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

17. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/146, the Human Rights Council will consider the note of the Secretary-General on the operations of the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/HRC/31/22).

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

18. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/146, the Human Rights Council will consider the note of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/HRC/31/23).

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

19. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/173, the Human Rights Council will consider the interim report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution (A/HRC/31/26) (see para. 95 below).

Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures

20. Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/76 and Human Rights Council decision 2/102, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General containing references to the conclusions and recommendations in the reports submitted by the special procedures (A/HRC/31/24).

Effective implementation of international human rights instruments

21. Pursuant to its resolution 9/8, the Human Rights Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement resolution 9/8 and obstacles to its implementation, including recommendation for further improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing and reforming the treaty body system (A/HRC/31/25).

Mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve human rights, accountability, reconciliation and capacity in South Sudan

22. Pursuant to its resolution 29/13, the Human Rights Council will consider the full report of the High Commissioner on the mission by OHCHR to improve human rights, accountability, reconciliation and capacity in South Sudan, including on the issue of sexual violence (A/HRC/31/49) during an interactive dialogue.

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

23. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 27/21 and Corr.1, and 30/2, the Council will have before it the report of OHCHR on the biennial panel discussion on the issue of unilateral coercive measures and human rights, held at its thirtieth session (A/HRC/31/82) (see para. 86 below).

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

24. Pursuant to its resolution 28/12, the Human Rights Council will consider the annual report of the Secretary-General on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights (A/HRC/31/31) (see para. 54 below).

Protection of the family

25. Pursuant to its resolution 29/22, the Human Rights Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner on the impact of the implementation by States of their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law with regard to the protection of the family (A/HRC/31/37) (see para. 56 below).

Human rights of persons with disabilities

26. In its resolution 28/4, the Human Rights Council requested OHCHR to prepare its annual study on the rights of persons with disabilities on article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. The Council will consider the report of OHCHR (A/HRC/31/30), which will also be available on the OHCHR website in an accessible format (see paras. 70-72 below).

Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

27. Pursuant to its resolution 22/4, the Human Rights Council will consider the annual report of the High Commissioner containing information on relevant developments of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, as well as on the activities undertaken by OHCHR that contribute to the promotion of and respect for the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/HRC/31/27) (see paras. 74 and 104 below).

Rights of the child

28. Pursuant to its resolution 28/19, the Human Rights Council will consider the follow-up report of the High Commissioner on investment in the rights of the child, based on good practices and lessons learned (A/HRC/31/33).

29. Also pursuant to resolution 28/19, the Council will also consider the report of OHCHR on the theme, "Information and communications technology and child sexual exploitation" (A/HRC/31/34), which will inform the annual day of discussion on the rights of the child (see paras. 76-79 below).

Human rights and climate change

30. In its resolution 29/15, the Human Rights Council decided to incorporate into its programme of work for the thirty-first session a panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and related policies, lessons learned and good practices, and requested OHCHR to conduct a detailed analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to be submitted to the Council prior to its thirty-first session and with a view to informing the panel discussion. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the analytical study (A/HRC/31/36) (see para. 91 below and annex).

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

31. In its resolution 28/2, the Human Rights Council requested the High Commissioner to prepare, taking into account the discussions conducted by the high-level panel on human rights mainstreaming held during its twenty-eighth session, a report on ways and means, as well as obstacles and challenges and proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Council, and to submit it to the Council before its thirtieth session (see A/HRC/30/63). The Council will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/31/81) (see para. 92 below).

The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

32. Pursuant to its resolution 25/8, the Human Rights Council will have before it the summary report of the High Commissioner on the panel discussion on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service, held at its thirtieth session (A/HRC/31/28) (see para. 93 below).

Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality

33. Pursuant to its resolution 26/14, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the impact that the arbitrary deprivation of nationality has on the enjoyment of the rights of children concerned, as well as on the existing laws and practices on accessibility for children to acquire nationality, inter alia, of the country in which they are born, if they otherwise would be stateless (A/HRC/31/29) (see para. 69 below).

The right to work

34. Pursuant to its resolution 28/15, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner on the realization of the right to work, in accordance with international human rights law and the relevant major challenges and best practices in that regard (A/HRC/31/32) (see para. 61 below).

Protection of the human rights of migrants: migrants in transit

35. Pursuant to its resolution 29/2, the Human Rights Council will consider the study of OHCHR on the situation of migrants in transit, including unaccompanied children and adolescents, as well as women and girls (A/HRC/31/35) (see para. 83 below).

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

36. Pursuant to its resolution 28/22, the Human Rights Council will consider the comprehensive report of OHCHR on the role and achievements of the Office, including on the field-based structure established to strengthen the monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/HRC/31/38) (see paras. 96-97 below).

Situation of human rights in Eritrea

37. In its resolution 29/18, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to enhance engagement in improving the situation of human rights in Eritrea, and to report on progress in the cooperation between Eritrea and the Office. The Council will hear the oral update of OHCHR thereon (see paras. 99-100 below).

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

38. Reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General on the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/31/43) (see para. 108 below).

The implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

39. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the fact-finding mission (A/HRC/31/42) (see para. 109 below).

Situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

40. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip (A/HRC/31/40 and Add.1) (see para. 110 below).

41. Reference is also made to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 28/27 (A/HRC/31/44) (see para. 111 below).

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

42. Reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/31/41) (see para. 112 below).

Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016

43. Pursuant to its resolution 28/28, the Human Rights Council will have before it the summary report of OHCHR on the outcome of the panel discussion on the impact of the

world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights, held at its thirtieth session (A/HRC/31/45) (see para. 114 below).

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

44. Pursuant to its resolution 30/16, the Human Rights Council will hear the update of the High Commissioner, in his capacity as coordinator of the International Decade for People of African Descent, on his activities in the follow-up to the implementation of the programme of activities within the framework of the Decade (see para. 118 below).

Technical cooperation and capacity-building for Burundi in the field of human rights

45. Pursuant to its resolution 30/27, the Human Rights Council will hear the update of High Commissioner on the implementation of that resolution, in an interactive dialogue (see para. 121 below).

46. In its resolution S-24/1 , the Human Rights Council decided to enhance the above-mentioned interactive dialogue so as to include the participation of, inter alia, representatives of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, civil society and relevant special procedures, and requested the High Commissioner to urgently organize and dispatch a mission by existing independent experts to, inter alia, undertake an investigation with a view to preventing further deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi. The Council will hear the oral update of a representative of the experts during the enhanced interactive dialogue.

Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan

47. Pursuant to its decision 2/113 and resolution 14/15, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights in 2015 (A/HRC/31/46) (see para. 122 below).

Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya

48. In its resolution 28/30, the Human Rights Council requested the High Commissioner to urgently dispatch a mission to investigate violations and abuses of international human rights law committed in Libya since the beginning of 2014, and to establish the facts and circumstances of such abuses and violations, with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring full accountability, and to submit a report on its findings, which should also contain an update on technical assistance, capacity-building and cooperation with the Government of Libya. The Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/31/47) (see para. 123 below).

Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea

49. Pursuant to its resolution 28/33, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights and the work of OHCHR in Guinea (A/HRC/31/48) (see para. 124 below).

Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

50. Pursuant to its resolution 30/21, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of OHCHR on the activities undertaken by the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and, where applicable, regional organizations to support efforts by States to promote and protect the rights of migrants in their national legislation, which will serve as a basis for the thematic panel discussion (A/HRC/31/80) (see para. 120 below and annex).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

51. Pursuant to its resolution 30/18, the Human Rights Council will hear the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Yemen and on the follow-up to that resolution (see para. 129 below).

Cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights

52. In its resolution 29/23, the Human Rights Council invited the High Commissioner to present orally to the States Members of the Council and observers the findings of each of the periodic reports of OHCHR on the situation of human rights in Ukraine, as part of the interactive dialogues, until the thirty-second session of the Council. The Council will hold an interactive dialogue on the periodic report of the High Commissioner (see para. 130 below).

3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Economic, social and cultural rights

Fiftieth anniversary of the adoption and fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights

53. In its resolution 29/1, the Human Rights Council decided to convene at its thirty-first session a high-level panel discussion on the topic, "The fiftieth anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights: universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights", in order to give the fiftieth anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights attention commensurate with its historical significance (see annex).

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

54. Reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General on the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights (A/HRC/31/31) (see para. 24 above).

Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity

55. In its resolution 28/9, the Human Rights Council decided to extend, for three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, and requested the Special Rapporteur to report regularly to the Council and the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work. The Council will consider the report of the new mandate holder, Karima Bennoune (A/HRC/31/59 and Add.1).

Protection of the family

56. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the impact of the implementation by States of their obligations under international human rights law with regard to the protection of the family (A/HRC/31/37) (see para. 25 above).

Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living

57. In its resolution 25/17, the Human Rights Council decided to extend, for three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, as set

out in Council resolution 15/8. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Leilani Farha (A/HRC/31/54 and Add.1-2).

Right to food

58. Pursuant to its resolution 28/10, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, on the implementation of that resolution (A/HRC/31/51 and Add.1-2).

Effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights

59. Pursuant to its resolution 28/8, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Bohoslavsky, on the implementation of that resolution (A/HRC/31/60 and Add.1-2).

60. In its resolution 25/9, the Council requested the Independent Expert to undertake a further study to analyse the negative impact of illicit financial flows on the enjoyment of human rights in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and to present a final study at its thirty-first session. In its resolution 28/5, the Council also requested the Independent Expert to organize an expert meeting on the above issue to inform his final report. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert (A/HRC/31/61).

The right to work

61. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the realization of the right to work (A/HRC/31/32) (see para. 34 above).

Civil and political rights

Fiftieth anniversary of the adoption and fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights

62. Reference is made to the high-level panel discussion on the fiftieth anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights: universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights (see annex).

The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests

63. Pursuant to its resolution 25/38, the Human Rights Council will consider the compilation report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, of practical recommendations for the proper management of assemblies based on best practices and lessons learned (A/HRC/31/66).

Prevention of genocide

64. Pursuant to its resolution 28/34, the Human Rights Council will hold an interactive dialogue with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide on the progress made in discharging his duties, which include, inter alia, liaising with the United Nations system on activities for the prevention of genocide and working to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to analyse and manage information relating to genocide or related crimes.

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

65. Pursuant to its resolution 25/13, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan Ernesto Méndez (A/HRC/31/57 and Add.1-4).

66. Reference is also made to the reports of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/HRC/31/23) and on the operations of the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/HRC/31/22) (see paras. 17-18 above).

Freedom of religion or belief

67. Pursuant to its resolution 28/18, the Human Rights Council will consider the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt (A/HRC/31/18 and Add.1-2).

The right to privacy in the digital age

68. In its resolution 28/16, the Human Rights Council decided to appoint, for a period of three years, a Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, whose tasks include, inter alia, submitting an annual report to the Council, starting at the thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the newly appointed mandate holder, Joseph Cannataci (A/HRC/31/64).

Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality

69. Reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General on the impact that the arbitrary deprivation of nationality has on the enjoyment of the rights of children concerned (A/HRC/31/29) (see para. 33 above).

Rights of peoples, and specific groups and individuals

Human rights of persons with disabilities

70. In its resolution 26/20, the Human Rights Council decided to appoint, for a period of three years, a Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, with a mandate to, inter alia, report annually to the Council, in accessible formats and according to its programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Catalina Devandas Aguilar (A/HRC/31/62 and Add.1).

71. In its resolution 28/4, the Council decided to hold its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities at its thirty-first session, with a focus on article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (see para. 26 above and annex).

72. Reference is also made to the study of OHCHR on article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/HRC/31/30) (see para. 26 above).

Minority issues

73. In its resolution 25/5, the Human Rights Council requested the Special Rapporteur on minority issues to submit an annual report on her activities, and to guide the work of the Forum on Minority Issues, prepare its annual meetings, report on its thematic recommendations and make recommendations for future thematic subjects. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Rita Izsák (A/HRC/31/56 and Add.1).

74. Reference is also made to the report of the High Commissioner on developments and activities that contribute to the promotion of and respect for the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/HRC/31/27) (see para. 27 above).

75. Reference is further made to the recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues made at its eighth session (A/HRC/31/72) (see para. 104 below).

Rights of the child

76. Pursuant to its resolution 25/6, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio (A/HRC/31/58 and Add.1-3).

77. In its resolution 69/157, the General Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilling her mandate. The Council will consider the report of the Special Representative, Leila Zerrougui (A/HRC/31/19).

78. In Also in resolution 157, the Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilling her mandate. The Council will consider the report of the Special Representative, Marta Santos Pais (A/HRC/31/20).

79. Pursuant to its resolution 28/19, the Council will hold its full-day meeting on the rights of the child with a focus on "Information and communications technology and child sexual exploitation", which will be informed by the report of OHCHR thereon (see para. 29 above and annex).

80. Reference is also made to the follow-up report on investment in the rights of the child (A/HRC/31/33) (see paras. 28-29 above).

Human rights defenders

81. In its resolution 25/18, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders for three years in the same terms as provided in its resolution 16/5. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Michel Forst (A/HRC/31/55 and Add.1-2).

Rights of persons with albinism

82. In its resolution 28/6, the Human Rights Council decided to appoint, for a period of three years, an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, with the mandate to, inter alia, report to the Council, starting from its thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the newly appointed mandate holder, Ikponwosa Ero (A/HRC/31/63).

Protection of the human rights of migrants: migrants in transit

83. Reference is made to the study of OHCHR on the situation of migrants in transit (A/HRC/31/35) (see para. 35 above).

Interrelation of human rights and human rights thematic issues

Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in 2016

84. In its resolution 30/8, the Human Rights Council decided to convene a panel discussion at its thirty-first session on the progress in and challenges of addressing human rights issues in the context of efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030 (see annex).

Human rights and preventing and countering violent extremism

85. Pursuant to its resolution 30/15, the Human Rights Council will convene a panel to discuss the human rights dimensions of preventing and countering violent extremism (see annex).

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

86. Reference is made to the summary report on the panel discussion on the issue of unilateral coercive measures and human rights (A/HRC/31/82) (see para. 23 above).

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

87. Pursuant to its resolution 29/9, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson (A/HRC/31/65 and Add.1).

Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

88. In its resolution 26/9, the Human Rights Council decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, with the mandate to, inter alia, elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and requested the working group to submit a report on its first session for consideration at its thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the working group (A/HRC/31/50).

Human rights and the environment

89. In its resolution 28/11, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as a special rapporteur, for three years, and invited the Special Rapporteur, in fulfilling his mandate, to submit an annual report. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, John Knox (A/HRC/31/52).

90. Also in resolution 28/11, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur, in collaboration with OHCHR, to convene an expert seminar on the effective implementation of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, challenges thereto and the way forward on the basis of the findings of the mandate holder, and to submit a summary report thereon . The Council will consider the summary report of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/31/53).

Human rights and climate change

91. Reference is made to the panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the

highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and related policies, lessons learned and good practices (see para. 30 above and annex).

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

92. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on ways and means, as well as obstacles and challenges and proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/31/81) (see para. 31 above).

The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

93. Reference is made to the summary report of the High Commissioner on the panel on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service (A/HRC/31/28) (see para. 32 above).

4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

94. In its resolution 28/20, the Human Rights Council decided to extend for one year the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and requested the Commission to present a written updated report during an interactive dialogue at the thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Commission of Inquiry (A/HRC/31/68).

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

95. In its resolution 28/21, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran for a further period of one year, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of his mandate to the Council at its thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Ahmed Shaheed (A/HRC/31/69) (see para. 19 above).

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

96. In its resolution 28/22, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for one year, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit regular reports to the Council on the implementation of his mandate. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Marzuki Darusman (A/HRC/31/70) (see para. 36).

97. Reference is also made to the comprehensive report of OHCHR on the role and achievements of the Office in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/HRC/31/38) (see para. 36 above).

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

98. In its resolution 28/23, the Human Rights Council decided to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a progress report to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work. The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Yanghee Lee (A/HRC/31/71).

Situation of human rights in Eritrea

99. In its resolution 29/18 the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea for one year, and requested the mandate holder to present an oral update to the Council at its thirty-first session. The Council will hear an oral update from the Special Rapporteur, Sheila B. Keetharuth.

100. Reference is also made to the oral update of OHCHR on progress in its cooperation with Eritrea (see para. 37 above).

5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Advisory Committee

101. In its resolution 27/30, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights, and to present a progress report of that research to the Council at its thirty-first session. The Council will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the report (A/HRC/31/67).

Special procedures

102. The Human Rights Council will have before it a note by the High Commissioner transmitting the report on the twenty-second meeting of the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Council, held in Geneva from 8 to 12 June 2015 (A/HRC/31/39).

103. The Council will also consider the communications report of special procedures (A/HRC/31/79), which will also be available online.

Forum on Minority Issues

104. In its resolution 6/15, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a Forum on Minority Issues to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. In its resolution 19/23, the Council renewed the mandate of the Forum and decided that the Forum should continue to meet annually. The Council will consider the recommendations made by the Forum at its eighth session, convened on 24 and 25 November 2015 (A/HRC/31/72) (see paras. 27 and 74 above).

6. Universal periodic review

105. In its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council established the universal periodic review mechanism as contained in section I of the annex to that resolution. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. At its thirty-first session, the Council will consider and adopt the final outcome of the review of the Federated States of Micronesia (A/HRC/31/4), Lebanon (A/HRC/31/5), Mauritania (A/HRC/31/6), Nauru (A/HRC/31/7), Rwanda (A/HRC/31/8), Nepal (A/HRC/31/9), Saint Lucia (A/HRC/31/10), Oman (A/HRC/31/11), Austria (A/HRC/31/12), Myanmar (A/HRC/31/13), Australia (A/HRC/31/14), Georgia

(A/HRC/31/15), Saint Kitts and Nevis (A/HRC/31/16) and Sao Tome and Principe (A/HRC/31/17).

106. Pursuant to President's statement 9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, the report of the Working Group, together with the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, voluntary commitments made and replies presented by the State under review, before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary, to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group constitute the outcome of the review, to be adopted by the Council at its plenary session through a standardized decision.

7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Human rights violations and implications of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

107. In accordance with its resolution 5/1 and decision 2/102, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Makarim Wibisono (A/HRC/31/73).

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

108. Pursuant to its resolution 28/26, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of that resolution (A/HRC/31/43) (see para 38 above).

The implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

109. Pursuant to its resolution 28/26, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner detailing the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem[1] (A/HRC/31/42) (see para. 39 above).

Situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

110. Pursuant to its resolutions S-9/1, S-12/1 and 29/25, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the High Commissioner concerning the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in relation to East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, including on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict and of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict of 2009 (A/HRC/31/40 and Add.1) (see para. 40 above).

[1] A/HRC/22/63.

111. Pursuant to its resolution 28/27, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of that resolution (A/HRC/31/44) (see para. 41 above).

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

112. Pursuant to its resolution 28/24, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/31/41) (see para. 42 above).

Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

113. In its resolution 28/25, the Human Rights Council decided to continue its consideration of the question of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination at its thirty-first session.

8. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016

114. Reference is made to the summary report of OHCHR on the outcome of the panel discussion on the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights, held at its thirtieth session (A/HRC/31/45) (see para. 43 above).

9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

The incompatibility between democracy and racism

115. Pursuant to Council resolution 29/20, the Human Rights Council will convene a panel discussion on the incompatibility between democracy and racism with a view to identifying challenges and good practices (see annex).

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

116. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/140, the Human Rights Council will convene a debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide, during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

117. In its resolution 30/16, the Council requested the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to commence preparations for the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and to present a report to the Council at its thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Working Group on its thirteenth session, held from 5 to 16 October 2015 (A/HRC/31/75).

118. Reference is also made to the update of the High Commissioner on his activities in the follow-up to the implementation of the programme of activities within the International Decade for People of African Descent (see para. 44 above).

Elaboration of complementary standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects

119. Pursuant to its decision 3/103 and its resolution 21/30, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on its seventh session, held from 13 to 24 July 2015 (A/HRC/31/74).

10. Technical assistance and capacity-building

Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

120. In its resolution 18/18, the Human Rights Council decided to hold an annual thematic discussion to promote the sharing of experiences and best practices and technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights. Pursuant to Council resolution 30/21, the Council will hold its annual thematic panel discussion with the theme "Technical cooperation and capacity-building to promote and protect the rights of all migrants, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities", which will be informed by the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/31/80) (see para. 50 above and annex).

Technical cooperation and capacity-building for Burundi in the field of human rights

121. Reference is made to the update of the High Commissioner on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 30/27 and to the update of the independent experts on the situation of human rights in Burundi (see para. 45 above).

Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan

122. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/HRC/31/46) (see para. 47 above).

Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya

123. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the findings of the mission of OHCHR in Libya (A/HRC/31/47) (see para. 48 above).

Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea

124. Reference is made to the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights and the work of OHCHR in Guinea (A/HRC/31/48) (see para. 49 above).

Capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights

125. In its resolution 29/24, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enhancement of capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights, and requested the Independent Expert to submit a report at its thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Mohammed Ayat (A/HRC/31/78).

Situation of human rights in Haiti

126. In President's statement 28/3, the Human Rights Council approved the request of the Haitian authorities for a one-year extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, and invited the Independent Expert to submit his report on the situation of human rights in Haiti at its thirty-first session, as well as to undertake a mission to Haiti and to report on that mission to the Council at the same session. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Gustavo Gallón (A/HRC/31/77).

Assistance to Mali in the field of human rights

127. In its resolution 28/31, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali for one year, and requested him to report to the Council at its thirty-first session. The Council will consider the report of the Independent Expert, Suliman Baldo (A/HRC/31/76).

Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic

128. In its resolution 30/19, the Human Rights Council decided to renew, for one year, the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, and requested the mandate holder to provide an oral update on her report on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic at its thirty-first session. The Council will hear the oral update by the Independent Expert, Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum.

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

129. Reference is made to the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Yemen and on the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 30/18 (see para. 51 above).

Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights

130. Reference is made to the oral update of the High Commissioner on the findings of the periodic report of OHCHR on the situation of human rights in Ukraine (see para. 52 above).

Annex

Panels and discussions to be held at the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council

Mandate	*Panel discussion*
16/21 Review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council	Half-day high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming on the theme of "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the right to development"
28/4 Human rights of persons with disabilities	Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, with a focus on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies
28/19 Rights of the child	Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child, with a focus on information and communications technology and child sexual exploitation
29/15 Human rights and climate change	Panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and related policies, lessons learned and good practices
30/8 Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in 2016	Panel discussion on the progress in and challenges of addressing human rights issues in the context of efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030
29/1 Fiftieth anniversary of the adoption and fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights	High-level panel discussion on the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption and fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights
30/15 Human rights and preventing and countering violent extremism	Panel discussion on the human rights dimensions of preventing and countering violent extremism
29/20 The incompatibility between democracy and racism	Panel discussion on the incompatibility between democracy and racism

Mandate	*Panel discussion*
General Assembly resolution 70/140	
A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action	Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide
18/18 and 30/21 Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights	Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights with a focus on the promotion and protection of the rights of all migrants, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities

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Organizational and procedural matters

Annotations to the agenda for the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council

Corrigendum

1. **Paragraph 70**

The last sentence *should read*

The Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur, Catalina Devandas Aguilar (A/HRC/31/62 and Add.2).

2. **Paragraph 87**

For the existing text *substitute*

87. Pursuant to its resolution 29/9, the Human Rights Council will consider the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson (A/HRC/31/65).

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